

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A member for use in a vacuum bandage connected to a vacuum source and for use with a wound having a wound surface, the member comprising

a wound contactable layer having a bottom surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface,

a plurality of discrete holes extending through the bottom surface of the wound contactable layer,

a generally non-porous cover coupled to the wound contactable layer,

at least one discrete opening extending through a top surface of the cover, ~~wherein the at least one discrete opening is uncovered at the top surface and configured to be directly open to an undermined portion of the wound such that negative pressure is communicated to the undermined portion of the wound directly from~~ such that the at least one discrete opening is configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound, and

a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source, the port being in fluid communication with each discrete hole and the at least one discrete opening.

2. (Previously presented) The member of claim 1, wherein the wound contactable layer has a top surface having a plurality of channels formed therein, and wherein the cover has a bottom surface that engages with the top surface of the wound contactable layer and cooperates with the channels formed in the top surface of the wound contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways between the port and each discrete hole and between the port and the at least one discrete opening.

3. (Previously presented) The member of claim 2, wherein the cover has a first surface area and the wound contactable layer has a second surface area larger than the first surface area, and wherein the channels of the wound contactable layer extend beyond an outer edge of the cover.
4. (Previously presented) The member of claim 2, wherein the at least one discrete opening comprises a plurality of discrete openings in communication with the channels of the wound contactable layer.
5. (Previously presented) The member of claim 1, wherein the at least one discrete opening comprises a plurality of discrete openings extending through the top surface of the cover and adapted to communicate negative pressure to undermined portions of the wound.
6. (Previously presented) The member of claim 5, wherein the cover includes an outer peripheral portion and the plurality of discrete openings are formed in the outer peripheral portion of the cover.
7. (Original) The member of claim 6, wherein the member is relatively thin and flexible.
8. (Currently amended) A bandage connectable to a vacuum source for use with a wound having a wound surface, the bandage comprising
 - a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source,
 - a wound contactable layer having a bottom surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface, a plurality of discrete channels extending along a top

surface of the wound contactable layer, the channels being in communication with the port, and a plurality of discrete holes opening through the bottom surface of the wound contactable layer, and

a cover coupled to the wound contactable layer and having a generally continuous planar bottom surface which extends between an outer perimeter of the cover, wherein ~~substantially all~~ a majority of the generally continuous planar bottom surface is directly engaged with the top surface of the wound contactable layer ~~[[and]]~~ such that the cover cooperates with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways connecting each hole with the port, the cover having a first surface area and the wound contactable layer having a second surface larger than the first surface area, outer portions of the channels extending between an outer edge of the cover and an outer edge of the wound contactable layer defining a plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure to an undermined portion of the wound, the cover configured to substantially prevent communication of negative pressure through the bottom surface of the cover.

9. (Currently amended) A member for use in a vacuum bandage connected to a vacuum source and for use with a wound having a wound surface, the member comprising

a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source,

a wound contactable layer having a bottom surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface, a plurality of discrete channels extending along a top surface of the wound contactable layer, the channels being in communication with the port, a first plurality of discrete holes opening through the bottom surface of the wound contactable layer and adapted to communicate negative pressure to the wound surface, and

a generally non-porous cover coupled to the wound contactable layer, a second plurality of discrete holes ~~opening~~ extending through a top surface of the cover ~~and which are uncovered at the top surface~~, the cover having a bottom surface cooperating with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways connecting each first discrete hole and each second discrete hole with the port, the cover having a first surface area and the wound contactable layer having a second surface area larger than the first surface area, outer portions of the channels extending between an outer edge of the cover and an outer edge of the wound contactable layer defining a plurality of peripheral access channels, the second plurality of discrete holes and the plurality of peripheral access channels ~~adapted~~ configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound.

10. (Previously presented) The member of claim 9, wherein the member is relatively thin and flexible.

11. (Original) The member of claim 10, wherein the cover includes an outer peripheral portion and the second plurality of discrete holes are formed in the outer peripheral portion.

12. (Canceled)